THE

LIFE, ADVENTURES,

AND

AMOURS,

OF

Sir R—— P——.

BRITISH
MUSEUM

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Sir R~~ichd~~ P~~urot~~,

Who ſo recently had the honour to preſent the F~~lint~~ addreſs at the Engliſh court.

Tempora mutantur
Et nos mutamur.

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W. Musgrave.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO

HIS G——

THE D—— OF G——.

I Shall not approach your G—— with abated reſpect or veneration, becauſe you are no longer a m——; on the contrary, my reſpect, my veneration is augmented by every new diſgrace you ſo undeſervedly incur. What—after having *ſmarted* under the pen of a Junius, and after all the groſs affronts you have encountered from the vulgar, is this your only reward, to be tumbled unexpectedly from the eminence of power, to have the m——l wreath ſo rudely torn from your brow, and that for no better purpoſe than to give triumph to your enemies, and the enemies of your much loved country.

But allow me to obſerve, that the report of your G——'s reſignation is treated with no ſmall contempt by the *wiſer* multitude—the *hands* may be *ſhifted* they grant you, but the intereſt is ſtill unchanged; and having been once told of a ſubmiſſive a———, gradually collected from the deſerters of all parties and connexions, and of which your G—— condeſcended to ſtand forth the gallant leader: they will imagine, that an equally friendly ſubſtitute may be picked out from the reſt to amuſe the public as occaſion ſhall require, at the ſame time that every thing behind the curtain remains in its quondam ſtate—yet, for I will not flatter you, notwithſtanding theſe ſuſpicions are frequently indulged, it is generally hoped that the period deſcribed by their favourite *writer* is moſt happily arrived, for your G—— muſt remember, that one part of his firſt letter has the following paſſage.

" Even the beſt of princes may at laſt diſcover, that the contention into which he has been precipitated by his m——— is of that nature, that every thing may be loſt by it, and nothing gained——*when*, as the D—— of G—— became m——

m—— by accident, was adopted without choice, truſted without confidence, and continued without favour, he will be diſcarded without even the *forms* of regret."

All this however is wide from the point I have in view: the change your G—— has undergone, 'tis true, obliges me in a great degree to change my plan, and convert what I intended for panegyric into a review of the *glories* of your a——, yet not in a regular arrangement, but as they moſt ſtrikingly occur——you cannot therefore wonder, that the cloſing action has with me the precedence.

Celebrated as your G—— has long been for the peculiarity of your attachments, I am nevertheleſs compelled to acknowledge, that your late conduct, with reſpect to Sir R—— P——, has abundantly outdone all your former outdoings.

There are indeed circumſtances and ſituations in life, that concur to aid the work of plauſibility, and lift the ſpecious villain into conſequence —There are characters to be found that *cheat* us

as

as it were, of our approbation by ſome agreeable feature, though they will not bear the teſt of too critical examination——and there have been inſtances of mens obtaining *even* the royal favour on no better pretenſions than the partiality of thoſe who have been *unwarily* connected with them——but not one of theſe things could ever happen with the D—— of G——, becauſe the D—— of G—— is incapable of being *caught* by *ſimple* excellencies, the character muſt be a *complete* one that *wins* upon his confidence, and how tenacious he was of his r——l maſter's *credulity* is moſt happily evinced in the gracious reception he was the means of Sir R—— P——'s experiencing on his preſenting the F—— addreſs.

Your enemies however, my L——, are univerſally clamorous againſt this newly created favourite, and each has his d——ming anecdote to produce; but who will *refuſe* you the juſtice to believe, that you was well convinced of the rectitude of that *mind* you ſuffered to mix with r——y, and took care that neither the careſſes nor emoluments of *princely* favour ſhould be unworthily beſtowed.

But

But as prejudice and partiality will evermore ſpeak an oppoſite language, you can have no idea of the virulent attacks which are made upon this moſt *valuable* bar—t *only* for having engaged the conſideration he merits——I will conceal nothing from you G——: there are not people wanting to proclaim him an *arrant* ſh—pr, the tool of ad———, and the daring engine of m———l fineſſe, both with reſpect to the S——— and the ſ——: that as the Welch, though a hot, are an undiſcerning people; and though impatient of control, beyond deſcription credulous, they were doubtleſs the moſt aptly conſtructed for ſupporting the political *farce*: that notwithſtanding all we believe of bad men, the whole Britiſh court did not afford one capable of the baſeneſs and effrontery this maſterly ſtroke of addreſſing required, or your *friend* had not been brought into action; for that your G—— was no ſtranger to either the *mire* of his origin, or the *obloquy* of his character, but that as the leſſer evil is always loſt in the greater, you adventured to diſpatch him with the ad—— ready manufactured in his pocket, to be conveyed from the principality in due ſeaſon; and to give the better

ter colour to the buſineſs, allowed him to aſſume that conſequence at the —— which loſt him the only opportunity he ever had in his life of obtaining a title, by *Sir Richarding* himſelf to the ear of his S——.

How muſt we deſpiſe theſe revilings of malevolence, by only looking back to your G——'s proceeding where Mr. Wilkes was concerned.—For, was it not the profligacy, the immorality of *his* principles, that incited you to break hands with him?—Was it not the conſideration of the ſame profligacy, and the ſame immorality that cauſed you ſo nobly to ſtand between him and his S——'s pardon?—Nay, had it not been for that profligacy and that immorality, would your G—— ever have become a *perſecutor*, where you had ſo often profeſſed yourſelf a *friend*.—The example is a glorious one.—You did violence to your own *ſenſibility*, involved your country in error and confuſion, and expoſed your character to the ſevereſt reproaches, rather than permit profligacy and immorality to paſs unpuniſhed.—Yet ſuch is the frenzy, the infatuation of party, that the moſt bold and

inſolent

inſolent compariſons are every where drawn betwixt the man you have abandoned, and the man you have countenanced.—The unſhaken firmneſs of the one, the deſpicable duplicity of the other; in a word, their birth, their education, their abilities, nay, their vices, are ſo diſadvantageouſly contraſted for the latter, that Junius is again referred to, in order to aggravate the *imagined* inſult the people's underſtandings have ſuſtained, by the clamour of a——— againſt Mr. Wilkes, when ſuch a wretch as Sir R——— P—— could be received into the very boſom of ———

Nor is it extraordinary, that in this temper your G—— ſhould be charged with the principal blame.—For are they not told by that fomenter of grievances, Junius, that they owe it to *your* well-directed labours, that the S—— was perſuaded to doubt of the affections of his ſubjects, and the people to ſuſpect the virtues of the S——, at a time when both were unqueſtionable—that it is *you* who have degraded the R——l dignity into a baſe, diſhonourable, competition with Mr. Wilkes, though you had not the

the abilities to carry even this laſt contemptible triumph over a private man, without the groſſeſt violation of the fundamental laws of the conſtitution, and rights of the people.

Another inſtance, amongſt the many we have received of your moſt ſpirited abhorrence of all mal-practices, is your expoſition of Mr. Vaughan.

As a man, you pitied his weakneſs; as a miniſter, you felt all due indignation for the attempt to corrupt, and the idea that *you* was corruptible.—But you did more than ever miniſter before you—to ſtrike at the root of ſo formidable an evil—to purge the conſtitution of its moſt dangerous humours, and obtain all poſſible ſimilitude between the purity of that, and your own heart.—You publickly proved yourſelf the champion of integrity, the mirror of probity, and the *conſervator* of the national honor. Inſtead, however, of meeting with an adequate reward, you only opened a new field for vilification—your virtue was called *coyneſs*, and your faith, *diſcretion*. It was ſaid to be a

fair

fair opportunity for diſplaying a certain delicacy of which you had not been ſuſpected, and you was pronounced to be in the right for making uſe of it.—It was, moreover, added by this pen of malignity—that by laying up a moderate ſtock of reputation, it had at firſt ſeemed as if you meant to provide for the future neceſſities of your character, and with ſo honourable a reſiſtance upon record, ſafely indulge your genius, or yield to a favourite inclination with ſecurity—but that you had diſcovered your purpoſes too early not to defeat them.—Nor does this formidable enemy, after a keen ſimile, ſcruple to addreſs you with the mock epithet of the *virtuous* miniſter, and challenge you to come forth and tell the world by what intereſt Mr. Hine was recommended to ſo extraordinary a mark of his M——y's favour.—What was the price of the patent he bought, and to what honourable purpoſe the purchaſe money was applied.—When having proceeded to the mention of that little affair between your G—— and colonel Burgoyne, he concludes in theſe inſolent terms—"And does your G—

dare to profecute ſuch a creature as Vaughan, while you are baſely ſetting up the royal patronage to auction.—Do you dare to complain of an attack upon your own honour, while you are ſelling the favours of the crown to raiſe a fund for corrupting the morals of the people. And do you think it poſſible ſuch enormities ſhould eſcape without impeachment."

If to ſuffer in the cauſe of our country is patriotiſm, then is your G—— the firſt of patriots.—So noble and ſo exemplary as you have acted in each of the preceding inſtances, yet have you incurred only ſlander and inſult—but the conſciouſneſs of your own integrity is a ſupport, a recompence beyond the utmoſt reachings of malice to wound, or the utmoſt conception of the worthleſs to eſtimate.

There is yet, however, a circumſtance unentered upon, from which your G——'s reputation has ſuffered the moſt extenſive, and the ſevereſt martyrdom, though not in Britain: and I can only lament that the generality of publi-

cations

çations are too local, to remove prejudices from diſtant countries.——You cannot but apprehend that I mean the diſappointment of thoſe falſe hopes the Americans had entertained of your graciouſneſs. But, my L—, how little did they apprehend, that you was *cruel* only to be *kind*—for, notwithſtanding it was very poſſible for them to make an erroneous choice, you was incapable of giving them *ought* but a bleſſing. Would you have rejected the good G——'s recommendation of the c———, but in order generouſly to beſtow the worthy Mr. S——— upon them, whoſe brother, by being married to the youngeſt daughter of Sir P—— W——, as *your* brother was to the eldeſt daughter, had the undoubted honor to be allied to you.

It is aſtoniſhing, but with the Engliſh, or what is exactly the ſame thing, the Americans, the very thing that ought to give weight to an action, generally proves its greateſt condemnation. Had your G—— ſent them a ſtranger, they might have ſuſpected your affection for them—but in the perſon of Mr. S—— every

ſuſpicion

ſuſpicion was obviated—by being allied to him, you could not fail to be intimately acquainted with the virtues and the abilities of his character; nay, you rendered yourſelf as it were reſponſible for both the one and the other. As to the ſuſpence they experienced—the deception in the firſt inſtance, and inſult in the ſecond, they complain, was the fate of their much honoured G——, the kind of natural claim the gentlemen, preſented for your ſanction and approbation, had to ſucceſs, and the more than moral certainty of Mr. S——— neither anſwering their purpoſes nor their wiſhes.—It is all idle and ridiculous.—Would they dare to arraign the judgment of ſo great a man as your G——? Beſides, was it not highly reaſonable and juſt, that Mr. S———'s ruined fortune ſhould be repaid; and where could that reparation be effected, but in a place, and amongſt people where he was unknown?—Are not provinces always conſidered as lawful game upon ſuch occaſions, and are not their inhabitants ſufficiently honoured, when the R——— of this country will condeſcend to plunder them?

But

But not to treſpaſs too long upon your G——'s time and patience. I will preſume to inform you, what induced me to prefix your name to the adventures of Sir R—— P——. It was, my L——, to convince you of the malice of your enemies.——For *ſuch*, as theſe adventures ſpeak him, is the man you are reported to have introduced to your S——. *Such* is the man, tender as you have ever proved yourſelf of the r——l dignity, that you could behold received, and diſtinguiſhed with peculiar marks of favour.——That *ſuch*, as the following adventures ſpeak him, is the man you could ſuffer the condeſcending heir apparent to play at taw with, and the unſuſpecting biſhop to preſent with a valuable medal.——That *ſuch* is the man you could receive into your friendſhip: nay more, that it is an invariable rule with you to chuſe your friends from a ſimilitude of taſte, ſentiments, and principles with your own. But your G—— will, I am confident, deſpiſe all theſe bold inſinuations, and happy in the conſciouſneſs of well doing, well-meriting, remain,

to

to the end of your exiſtence, unchanged in your character, and unchanged in your principles.

I have

the honour to be

your G——'s moſt dutiful

and moſt obedient ſervant,

THE

LIFE,

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OF

Sir R—— P——,

Who ſo recently had the honour to preſent the F— addreſs at the Engliſh court.

Tempora mutantur
Et nos mutamur.

THE motto which I have choſe upon this occaſion, was never more happily applied, than to my hero—who, from an obſcure origin, is now advanced on high, and received with peculiar diſtinction into the very palaces of princes.

That

That Sir R—— P—— was born at Shrewſbury, I believe is pretty certain—as alſo that neither his father's rank, or his own education, imparted the ſmalleſt hopes of his attaining the eminence on which we find him repoſed—but nature, that partial goddeſs, hailing him *favourite*, even in the firſt hour of his exiſtence, did not fail, as an earneſt of future kindneſs, to endow his infant breaſt with a liberal portion of low cunning, and ſelf-confidence.—Which *growing* with his *growth*, and *ſtrengthening* with his *ſtrength*, have proved his infallible bouys through the rough ſtorms and tempeſts of life, until he has gained anchorage in the r—— harbour. Nor was his mind the only object of her care.—His perſon, from the happy touches of her fingers, was rendered irreſiſtible with the fair ſex; nor will his ſucceſſes, in the walk of gallantry, form the leaſt conſiderable part of his hiſtory.

Great endowments cannot long be concealed—Sir R—— P——, even at that period, when innocence and playfulneſs engroſs the imagination, gave aſtoniſhing proofs of fineſſe and dexterity

dexterity. Whatever was desirable, if in the possession of his young companions, was soon rendered his own property—and whatever house he once got footing into, was never quitted but in order to avoid the *detection* of his merits.

Of this species of modesty, perhaps, no one could boast more than Sir R———. It was, indeed, this species of modesty that brought him at a very early age to the metropolis—for as he had an aversion to popularity, he did not chuse to be called to the *bar* in his own country, where the greatest honours would have awaited him, or to embark for *America* with the *eclat*, which he had reason to apprehend would attend his departure. He, therefore, made an elopement of a less *public* nature, and very artfully contrived to lose himself in the multitude.

But, notwithstanding the *finer feelings* were not very troublesome in his bosom, some conscious pangs of the *honours* he was so justly intitled to, preyed upon his repose. He therefore came to a resolution of trying his fortune at sea. The sea was not, however, propitious to Sir R——. He had, 'tis true, a very pretty turn

for the *ſlave trade*, and if not unduely complimented, re-acted all that his predeceſſor, Incle, did before him, with reſpect to a blooming Yorica, who ſaved him from the ſavages of her country. The advantages were nevertheleſs too trifling to anſwer his wiſhes; and as a regard for his complexion, and natural love of honeſt *terra firma*, incited him to quit that occupation, he was reduced to the neceſſity of ſtriking out a new plan of operations.

It requires only a very limited acquaintance with this city, to be ſenſible that there is a living in it for the induſtrious of every denomination—but more eſpecially for that ſpecies of induſtry that *demands* genius, and *commands* admiration.

Young, unprotected, and pennyleſs, was but a miſerable plight for our hero—yet it was a plight that he ſupported, not only with courage but chearfulneſs.

An old man who loved to tell long ſtories, and who ſeldom enjoyed the flattery of a complaiſant

plaiſant auditor, was, at this rather deſperate juncture, caſt in Sir R——'s way. The happineſs was mutual. The dotard *retained* his ears in his ſervice, and, in return, was no niggard of his poſſeſſions. By this gentleman's generoſity, Sir R—— ſoon made not only a very ſmart, but a very attracting appearance—and receiving an intimation, from his looking glaſs, of the *eligibility* of his figure, he was not without hopes of ſhewing away at ſome future period to advantage.

But the confinement, the ſervility of his ſituation cannot be deſcribed. From morn to dewy eve, eternal attendance, and eternal acquieſence was the taſk he was compelled to perform—yet prudence and reſolution ſo powerfully fortified his ſoul, that he was never ſeen to look diſſatisfied, or heard to utter a complaint. This kind of behaviour could not fail to rivet him in the good opinion of his patron, who often hinted, that if he was the ſurvivor, he ſhould have no reaſon to repent having ſpent his days in his ſervice. In the neighbourhood of this extraordinary old character, lived a damſel, who, from the

the nature of her circumſtances, would have rejoiced in almoſt any change of condition. She was no ſtranger to either the circumſtances, or the humour of the man that had caught her eye, but as the former made him a deſirable object for her toils, the latter was of little conſequence in her eſtimation.

She, however, thought proper to throw out her lure to our adventurer—who judging from her dreſs, and the elegance of her lodgings, too favourably of her finance, was not a little delighted with the overture. A few interviews brought them to a proper underſtanding—articles were entered into on each part, and as the gentleman undertook to render her the wife of his patron, ſhe bound herſelf to preſent him a handſome gratuity.

There are nevertheleſs contingencies, or what are generally known by the name of mental reſervations, that often alter the letter of an engagement. Sir R—— was indefatigable—he excited his friend's curioſity, by his deſcriptions of the beauty, the modeſty, the aſtoniſhing

good

good ſenſe of his fair neighbour, until he drew the confeſſion from him, that he ſhould have no objection to paſſing an evening with her. This point was every thing—the lady had received her inſtruction—and ſo diſſembled the *pleaſure* ſhe wiſhed him to believe ſhe found in his converſation, that he ſoon lived only in her company. During this period Sir R—— was their every thing—but the hour that intitled the lady to preſide in the houſe of his patron, he perceived a wonderful change. Her ſmiles of complaiſance, her inſinuating accent, her flattering attentions were no more; and it was alarmingly obvious, that he had laboured for her introduction, only to deſtroy himſelf.

His vanity, however, ſupported him for ſometime; and he fancied, though without the ſmalleſt ſhadow of probability, that ſhe was merely playing off a few airs and graces, and meant in the end to reward him beyond all ſhe had taught him to expect—he was for once moſt egregiouſly miſtaken.—She only waited for a lucky moment to ruin him in his patron's eſteem,

and

and give that patron an aſtoniſhing impreſſion of her compliance and attachment.

She was alſo too thorough paced to fulfil even her firſt engagement: and on Sir R——, rather impolitically, attempting to force an eclairciſſement, ſilenced all his demands, and blaſted all his hopes, by ſhewing him the kind of woman he had to deal with: and as to have puſhed things to extremities, would have been only more abundantly to undo himſelf, he cloſed with a propoſal of twenty guineas for all he had accompliſhed, and an inſtant removal of his perſon off the premiſſes, where he had conceived himſelf a neceſſary appurtenance. But notwithſtanding he was thus abruptly turned out upon a wide world, he had many conſolations; his wardrobe was not a deſpicable one; a valuable ring or two, which he had *borrowed* on his departure, enſured him an addition to his little fund of caſh—and as he had contracted ſome gentlemanly ideas from good living and indolence, he thought it beſt to purſue a gentlemanly track; and, at ſome diſtance from the metropolis, repair the error he had fallen into, of transferring his prey to foreign hands.

Produce

Produce me the man whoſe figure is in any degree out of the common, and I will in general produce you a coxcomb; and as it is the misfortune, no leſs than the reproach, of the female world, to be captivated by externals, the coxcomb is generally ſucceſsful where the worthy and the ſenſible would be wholly diſregarded. Yet, if we conſider the groſs abuſes the female world daily experience, or the barbarous, not to ſay brutal returns their blameable partiality often expoſes them to, it is impoſſible not to wonder that the leſſons of prudence and reflection can be reſiſted. But though we might be brought to make ſome allowances for youth, when betrayed into impropriety, by the rattling tongue of ſavage and audacious eloquence, where can we find a drop of pity for the indiſcretions of maturity.

What lady had the happineſs to be Sir R——'s firſt conſort, is by no means the cleareſt part of his hiſtory: but we may be aſſured, that whatever ſhare of love that original election could boaſt, it was of temporary duration, for avarice and ambition ſoon erected their empire in his bo-

ſom

ſom, and his actions received the particular tinge thoſe paſſions are calculated to communicate.

In a part of this kingdom, that ſhall be nameleſs, lived a widow lady of decent circumſtances and a fair reputation: her family conſiſted of one ſon and one daughter, whoſe proviſion was entirely at her mercy, and whoſe affection for, and confidence in the maternal character, might have been reaſonably expected to induce her to live only for them. But the love of admiration was not extinct in her, however antiquated, heart; and an accidental acquaintance with Sir R——— bringing her foible to his knowledge, he had too much addreſs not to make due advantage of it.

But notwithſtanding Sir R——'s views were wholly levelled at the good lady's property, he did not diſdain laying cloſe ſiege to her heart. Amongſt his many perfections, volubility was in no degree the leaſt conſiderable, his memory happy, his invention unlimited—all his fair audience were affected in like manner with Deſdemona—'twas ſtrange, 'twas wondrous ſtrange——and as he was the hero of each entertaining or intereſting narrative

narrative, they would frequently wiſh that heaven had made them ſuch a man. Nor ought it to be wondered at, that the ſame artifice, which could betray the *mother* into vice and infamy, ſhould be equally ſucceſsful with her doubly unfortunate daughter.

Sir R—— was now in his meridian of happineſs: and ſorry I am to be obliged to confeſs, that half the delight the ladies felt in their conqueſt, was the outrivalling each other: for tho' the mother was ignorant of the daughter, and the daughter of the mother's reſolutions in the Bar—t's favour, yet they had ſufficient penetration to perceive a competition, and to enjoy a triumph.

The young fellow, the ſon, was not all this time neglected; his confidence, his approbation was engaged by this ſecond Alexander, who conceived it neceſſary, for the better carrying on of his ſchemes, to guard againſt every ſpecies of ſuſpicion in his breaſt. Thus maſter of the inclinations, and affections of the whole family, it was no extraordinary circumſtance that he ſhould

take up his reſidence in the ſame habitation—all the widow's money was ſoon intruſted to his care and improvement, nor did an idea of repentance once enter her imagination.

Sir R——, however, was not one of your diſintereſted lovers, he dreſſed, he frequented the places of polite reſort, drank, betted, all at his female friend's expence, and began to eſtabliſh a reputation for the *bon ton* more univerſally than ever his moſt ſanguine hopes could have reached.

From this æra Sir R——'s conſequence may moſt juſtly be dated: for whatever ſtrokes he might previouſly be capable of, they were in the *ſmall* way—ſuch as cancelling notes, correcting little articles of chronology, bilking his taylor or his lodgings—but here his power was enlarged, nor did his will fail to keep pace with it. But let me not do him injuſtice, he was not one of your ill-bred r——ls, who are t—— and tyrants in the ſame inſtant: no, the widow's fireſide was ſure to ſmile when he condeſcended to ſpend his evening there, and the chearfully circulated glaſs ſtill contributed to augment the natural

tural good humour of the company. Sir R—— had now ſome very important connexions—uncommonly intelligent, he fetched and carried to the ſatisfaction of many great men of the turf, and made an admirable puff upon occaſions. He would very good naturedly have introduced the ſon of his patroneſs into the ſame genteel life, if it could have been done without coſt or danger; but having formed a ſcheme of picking up a lady of large fortune, he was afraid the youth might tell tales; and uncertain as to the ſucceſsful period, it was undoubtedly wiſeſt to reſerve all for his own neceſſities.

Yet as he loved to give pleaſure, the poor credulous young fellow was continually amuſed with the great things he would do for him—now he was to obtain him a commiſſion, and then he would ſend him abroad in ſome advantageous ſituation—large ſums were declaredly expended by him in the purſuit of theſe viſionary acquiſitions, but he was ever diſappointed, ever believed when ſtarting a freſh game of equal improbability. The world, buſy and malicious by nature already, began to talk largely of his and his friend's

friend's conduct. But when vanity, folly or vice inhabit the heart, who does not deſpiſe the world and all its malice? Inſtead of picking a leſſon of caution or inſtruction out of our enemies, we generally determine to give grounds for their ſuſpicions or cenſures; and inſtead of retreating whilſt to retreat is in our power, we madly advance until we are undone. That this muſt be the caſe, where caprice, not reaſon, is the governing principle—where ſelf-indulgence is conſidered as the end of our creation—where virtue is called prudery, and vice ſpirit (which are the infallible gradations of a bad mind) requires no illuſtration. How incumbent then is it not upon us to preſerve a right way of thinking ourſelves, and impreſs the idea of its uſefulneſs upon thoſe hearts we are capable of influencing. The all-conquering Sir R—— was maſter, not only of the purſe and perſons, but the diſpoſition and ſentiments of this moſt infatuated family. The old lady beheld things merely thro' his optics, whilſt the young one drew all her notions of life, prudence, mankind, nay religion itſelf, from his repreſentations—diſſipation and love ſhe was taught to conſider as the eſſence of the firſt; the

the art of concealment, the whole merit of the ſecond; gallantry, the characteriſtic of the third, and a happy annihilation the creed of the fourth. Theſe impreſſions once received, there was very little more neceſſary to perſuade her to take whatever ſteps he pleaſed—and as her mother had outwent her by many degrees in advances towards vice and deſtruction, this victory cloſed his connexion with them for ever.

But how ſhall I deſcribe the complicated horrors of poverty and guilt, which they, when too late, found to be their only portion. The mother confeſſed her criminality with the deepeſt remorſe, together with all its alarming conſequences, to her child, and her child imparted her dire ſecret in return. In a word, pennyleſs and abandoned, they were both pregnant by the ſame v——, the ſame worthy Bar——t, who ſo recently, as mentioned in the title page, had the honor of preſenting the F—— addreſs, and who was decamped beyond their utmoſt intelligence. The poor young fellow petrified at the evils he was unable to redreſs—no means of ſubſiſtance left for him, no ſheltering roof, no benevolen

benevolent hand to relieve, enliſted for a ſoldier, and loſt his life ſoon after in an engagement.

Deſpiſed, deſerted, and univerſally abandoned, this deplorable, this culpable mother, unable to ſupport remorſe and ſuffering, was deprived of her reaſon—and having for ſome months exhibited a frightful picture of guilt and deſpair, was taken off in all the violence of the latter.

The daughter now only remained to wind up the cataſtrophe; and that nothing might be wanting to complete the triumphs of the F—— hero, the termination of her days was not unattended with the moſt melancholy eclat. The ſcenes of diſtreſs, inſult and wretchedneſs, through which ſhe paſſed in a very ſhort time, are almoſt incredible. At length, however, the nature of her circumſtances compelled her to take refuge in a work-houſe, where ſhe died in an extremity that was the conſequence of her criminal conduct.

Thus

Thus we find this gentlemanly Bar—t, early enjoying thoſe beſt fruits of amour, wild devaſtation and death. Has heaven forgot to puniſh, or for what wiſe purpoſe are the authors of crimes permitted to dwell in ſecurity, when their miſerable partners in iniquity feel the ſevereſt chaſtiſements?—but it is not preſumptuous to believe, that he was marked down by fate for the great work he has accompliſhed, of pleaſing his —— and ſerving his country.

Sir R—— was no ſtranger to the miſchiefs he had occaſioned, but as all evidence was now cloſed up againſt him, he congratulated himſelf in his eſcape, inſtead of lamenting the effects of his v——. Maſter of a few hundred pounds, the laſt remaining part of this ſad family's fortune, he reſolved to employ it to the greateſt advantage. For this purpoſe he equipped himſelf with a more than commonly elegant ſuit of clothes, and every neceſſary appendage; and with no mean opinion of his own qualifications, appeared at ſome celebrated races in the character of a man of faſhion. The ladies, from conceiving him a conqueſt worth the pains, almoſt

prevented

prevented his wiſhes in their reception of him; and the gentlemen, from apprehending him to be a formidable rival, beheld him with a jealous eye. Honeſt nature will not long be concealed—many little meanneſſes tranſpired to create ſuſpicion; and, notwithſtanding he was very warmly ſupported by ſeveral people of conſequence, whoſe friendſhip he had purchaſed by his capacity for entertaining, he was turned out of the public aſſembly room in a moſt diſgraceful manner, and declared an impoſtor. This affair was productive of great confuſion. Parties were formed in his favour. He boaſted of connexions he could not prove, and credentials he was unpoſſeſſed of. Yet, what neither his own merit, nor the entreaties of eloquence could have obtained for him, he owed to a good honeſt ſpirit of oppoſition. A gentleman of the country received him into his family, and was ſo pleaſed with his vivacity, that he was moſt reluctantly undeceived. This gentleman reproved him very ſeverely for his conduct, forbid him his houſe, and adviſed him to fly from a ſpot where he had been ſo abundantly expoſed. There is, in ſome compoſitions, a ſuperlative ſpecies of

aſſurance

aſſurance of this accompliſhed Bar—t. He thanked the gentleman for his kindneſs, pleaded youth and a natural propenſity to gaiety in excuſe for the ſteps he had taken; and pleaded ſo ſucceſsfully, that he not only carried off the the gentleman's forgiveneſs, but a purſe of guineas for his ſupport and accommodation, until he could ſtrike out ſome leſs reproachful plan for obtaining a ſubſiſtence. There are, however, degrees of vice, that repentance cannot reach. The county air once exchanged for that of a neighbouring county, he forgot all his honeſt reſolutions, and became wholly intent upon the renewal of his unworthy ſchemes: and it muſt be obvious to even the commoneſt obſerver, that when the inclinations are corrupt, there is no want of opportunities for gratifying them. But young ladies of ſpirit, it is well known, are not deterred from attachments by trifling incidents. Sir R—— had ſo well-employed his eloquence, previous to the little untoward adventure juſt recited, that it is more than probable that he would have married one of the greateſt fortunes in the county, if the care of her family had not in the firſt inſtance, and a violent fever in the

ſecond, proved inſurmountable impediments—until his circumſtances, which could in no degree brook delay, precipitated him into a leſs advantageous and leſs honourable alliance; which, by reaching the lady's knowledge, taught her to rejoice in what ſhe had before conſidered as a ſingular calamity.

Things had nevertheleſs been conducted with ſuch an air of probability, that many valuable tradeſmen were left to rue their unfortunate credulity—and yet properly conſidered, this mode of giving credit to a notorious ———, when on a matrimonial ſcent, is being an abſolute acceſſary in the f—— he commits, and I greatly fear, that many amiable, though indiſcreet young ladies owe their deſtruction to this miſtaken ſource.

A complication of difficulties and diſappointments now induced our hero to renounce his name, and engage himſelf with a little ſtrolling company of players. His theatrical genius was, however, of very moderate dimenſions. The lover, and the honeſt man, were parts that he

was moſt incapable of filling; but, in the preſentation of an *addreſs*, no performer could exceed him.

In this walk he contrived to make himſelf of very conſiderable conſequence. His clothes were let out to the firſt people in the company; and it was always remarked, that the black-eyed gentleman, if not the beſt actor, was the beſt dreſſed perſon of the whole party.

During this period, the Bar—t had evermore kept a look out for ſome tender hearted female, whoſe fortune might have raiſed him to the height he panted after; but where ever he went—fathers or brothers were ſuch buſy obſervers, that all acceſs was impracticable, unleſs in ſuch inſtances as were beneath his conſideration. To deſpair of ſucceſs, is to prevent our ſucceeding. Sir R—— P—— knew not what it was to deſpair—but he was, indeed, become a little doubtful, when accident produced what the utmoſt ſearch denied. Triping over the fields one morning to rehearſal, he ſaw a gun lie by the ſide of a hedge, with

a dog at ſome ſmall diſtance. Now no one can ſurely imagine, that I would inſinuate that he had any deſign upon the *property*, though it was a pretty looking piece—but curioſity is very prevalent in the mind of ſenſibility—and it was curioſity alone that incited him to approach, take it up, after patting the faithful animal for ſome time, and examine it; when having called upon the owner, and no ſuch owner appearing—a deſire of preſerving it from the paws of rapine, furthermore incited him to bear it home to his lodgings. The crier was ſet inſtantly to work, and a reward offered for the finding the much valued inſtrument of death. Sir R—— made inquiry into the family and fortune of the young fellow to whom it belonged; and upon mature deliberation returned it, in a genteel manner, utterly declining all acceptance of the pecuniary gratification, though the narrow pittance he was then maſter of might have borne an addition.

The young fellow, whoſe confined education taught him to conſider the refuſal of money as a mark of a noble ſoul, with an oath of applauſe,

plauſe, declared he ſhould be no loſer by having behaved like a gentleman, and the next day ſent him an invitation to dine with him. Sir R—— appeared at the appointed hour, praiſed the munificence, the elegance of his entertainment, and received permiſſion to renew his viſits on the moſt friendly terms. This was all he wanted: for the maſter of the feaſt had recently buried a father, and had a ſiſter in the ſame habitation with him, whoſe bad ſtate of health had never permited her to be a ſpectator of our hero's performances. One morning, this child of fortune, calling early upon his newly created friend, was informed, that he was abſent, but that their young lady was then in the parlour if he had any very important buſineſs with him. This was ſufficient: he aſſumed a moſt conſequential look, begged to be conducted to her, and made ſo good an apology for his intruſion, that ſhe importuned him to wait her brother's return. He was, however, too good a maſter of his buſineſs, not to be capable of ſalutary ſelf-denial. Therefore, pleading engagement, he took an early leave, and by a peculiar reſpectful bow, left an impreſſion on the

the fair lady's heart, by no means to his diſadvantage.

Say, ye fair daughters of the creation, why are ye compoſed of theſe ſuſceptible materials? Have ye eyes for no better purpoſe, than to be deceived, and ears only to miſlead your judgments? How can your pride ſuffer you to flatter the vanity of every worthleſs coxcomb, and involve yourſelves in contemptible misfortunes.

Miſs Rhebins's (for ſo, for diſtinction's ſake, we will call her) imagination dwelt all that day, and the ſucceeding night, upon the agreeable figure, and no leſs agreeable addreſs of the handſome player. He was certainly a man of faſhion in diſguiſe. And ſo great was her deſire for a ſecond interview, that ſhe perſuaded her brother to ſend for him, and inquire if he had not a very particular reaſon for his viſit. Sir R—— obeyed the ſummons with an exulting heart. He converſed with the brother, it is true, but with that peculiar dexterity, that the ſiſter was well convinced, ſhe was the object of his attention; and ſhe was more than ever charmed with

with him, for the eaſe, politeneſs, and wiſdom of his behaviour. Her indiſpoſition was now in a great meaſure forgot. She wiſhed to appear lovely in his ſight, and was therefore always chearful, and always engaging; and as grief for the loſs of an indulgent father had, in a great meaſure, been the cauſe of her decay of health, ſo her revived ſpirits ſeemed to have more than half reſtored her to her original conſtitution. Sir R——, having played the lover for his miſtreſs's entertainment, moſt earneſtly ſighed for an opportunity of playing it for his own. Romeo, Varanes, Phoycias, and a thouſand other deaths he had died before her, though it had never yet been in his power to caſt his life at her feet. But fortune, ever favourable to the brave, at length drew her brother, for a few days, to a diſtant part of the country; and as Sir R—— was at all times well received at the ſquire's, no one thought it extraordinary, that he ſhould viſit there even in Mr. Rhebins's abſence—as to Miſs Rhebins, ſhe was as far from being ſurpriſed at, as condemning the practice. For two days did he ſtruggle with his reſpect, his veneration; the third found him proſtrate before

before her, declaring his paſſion, and beſeeching her to puniſh, by her cruelty, the preſumption her beauty had inſpired. The lady trembled, heſitated, would have frowned, but was conſcious that her frowns did not become her. In a word, ſhe confeſſed her partiality for him; and in the ſame inſtant confeſſed the romantic idea that partiality had ſuggeſted to her, of his being a gentleman in diſguiſe.

This was a ſtroke that tickled him inconceivably—he faintly denied what he wiſhed ſhould be believed; and at laſt, as a proof of his adoration and confidence, unboſomed himſelf with the moſt conſummate impudence—pronouncing himſelf a Bar—t under ſome little diſadvantages from the diſpleaſure of an uncle, and as much by way of frolic, as for a temporary concealment, in the ſituation of an itinerant player.

She heard, and ſhe believed—her fortune was nine thouſand pounds—with ſome little natural tincture of romance, and a very uncommon ſhare of generoſity and good nature in her compoſition, ſhe rejoiced at having it in her power to reward,

as

as ſhe had diſtinguiſhed merit; and no miraculous rhetoric was neceſſary to prevail upon her to follow her own inclinations.

Sir R—— had now much buſineſs upon his hands. His caſh run low: he could not draw without diſcovering himſelf. The deficiency was ſupplied by the lady, and every thing wore the face of a complete victory.

The hour for elopement arrived, Miſs Rhebens's courage ſtrangely miſgave her—to fly with a man ſhe was acquainted with only by his own report, was it not an aggravation of the indelicacy of flying at all?—but ſhe gave her fears to the wind on his approach, and being ſeated in the chaiſe, was conveyed like lightening from the place of her nativity.

Sir R——, now confident of ſucceſs, and miſtaking the mind he had to deal with, began to take ſome rather alarming liberties with his intended bride. She ſuppreſſed her indignation ſo happily, that the deceiver was deceived, until arriving at an inn, ſhe refuſed to proceed one

ſtep farther with him, without receiving proofs of his birth and education, which, if as genteel as he had mentioned, ſhe inſiſted upon it, would have rendered him incapable of the brutality ſhe had experienced from him. He was chagrined, he was confounded, would have imputed his improprieties to the violence of his paſſion. But, notwithſtanding ſhe had committed ſo great a breach of decorum, ſhe knew of no paſſion that could juſtify his conduct, and he kneeled, fawned, ſwore, and lied, without working the ſmalleſt change in her reſolutions.

Finding all his entreaties ſo ineffectual, he begged her to recollect what was due to her own character, and what the world would ſay of a woman's having flown with a man from the knowledge and protection of her friends, for any other purpoſe than to become his wife. The lady was ſtill immoveable: ſhe ſaid, that ſhe now moſt ſincerely repented the folly ſhe had been guilty of, but could not conceive it merited ſo ſevere a puniſhment, as being tied to him for life; and that groſsly as ſhe had been affronted, ſhe ſhould look back to it as a merciful circumſtance,

ſtance, as it was the only one that could have ſaved her from being united to a man ſhe muſt have for ever deſpiſed. This treatment was as hard for his haughty ſpirit to brook, as it was unexpected. He vowed revenge privately, but publickly profeſſed an entire ſubmiſſion to her will—talked of refunding the money he had expended in the expedition, of not ſurviving the diſappointment, and only begged to be allowed to reſtore her himſelf to her brother. Miſs Rhebens, though very young, did not want for underſtanding, and, though very indiſcreet, was unaffectedly virtuous. She had ſeen enough of his mind to diſguſt her wholly; and was reſolved never more to put herſelf in his power.

She communicated the predicament ſhe was under to the inn-keeper's wife, who happened to be a decent, well behaved, and humane woman; and by her advice diſpatched a meſſenger for her brother—who arriving early the next evening, Sir R—— thought proper to decamp: and the lady, as a proof of her ſelf-condemnation, declares ſhe will never expoſe herſelf to the cenſure of a huſband, for a ſtep that ſhe herſelf

herſelf is unable to pardon, and has therefore remained ſingle to this day. Sir R—— felt a ſtrong inclination in himſelf to have intimated to his friend, Mr. Rhebens, that it would be beſt for the honour of his family to beſtow his ſiſter upon him; but he was afraid her *ipſa dixit* might paſs ſooner than his own, and that therefore he ſhould aggravate his reſentment, without deriving the ſmalleſt benefit from it. He now lamented, that he was not bleſſed with abilities for the ſtage, as his perſon could never have been placed in a more advantageous point of view, as when dreſſed after the manner of the principal characters at the theatres royal; nor had he the ſmalleſt doubt of its engaging abundant admiration. But as this was the caſe, he found himſelf obliged to move in a much more retired ſphere, and a houſe in the Five Fields Chelſea was his houſe of reſidence, for a, rather dull, part of his life.

His ſpirits, however, ſomewhat reviving, he reſolved to make one more bold puſh for the man of faſhion, and his *ſucceſs* cannot but animate other

other adventurers, to perſevere in deſpite of all impediments.

No man in exiſtence could ſupport a falſe appearance like Sir R——. Having once more aſſumed a conſequential air, he ſoon introduced himſelf to an unſuſpecting, harmleſs, fellow, who had ſcraped a ſmall ſum together, and was anxious to diſpoſe of it in obtaining a little annual proviſion. Not a Lord or Duke in the kingdom, but our adventurer had intereſt with; he preſented twenty flattering ſchemes to his imagination, and at length fixed him in the choice of a meſſenger's place. The pains, Sir R—— took upon this occaſion, was highly meritorious—he attended the levee of a great man for a whole fortnight for the accompliſhment of his purpoſe, and having got a promiſe to his wiſhes, he flew to his friend and told him, that nothing more was neceſſary, than enabling him to pay the gratuity required, which was barely adequate to the yearly ſalary. The poor deluded fellow, inſtantly put him in poſſeſſion of his little all, amounting in the whole to two hundred

hundred pounds——and Sir R—— diſappeared from his ſight for ever.

I ſhall not comment upon either the cruelty or injuſtice of the action——yet, is it poſſible for us to think of the diſappointments of age, and the loſs of its utmoſt pittance, without feeling commiſeration. This point gained, Sir R—— commenced a new purſuit. That money begets money, is a proverb of ſuch received credit, that it needs no illuſtration, or that this town affords many polite opportunities for ſuch kind of improvements. Our hero now viſited a place of eminence every morning and evening, and became a tolerable adept in the arts and myſteries of gaming. Now he was maſter of a decent fortune, and then he was reduced to his laſt ſhilling. This violent exerciſe of the mind did not quite agree with his conſtitution, but not knowing how to obtain a more certain diſpoſition of himſelf, he endeavoured to make a virtue of neceſſity, and, becauſe he wiſhed to be ſatisfied, be ſo in reality. This reſolution, however, was no ſooner taken, than a circumſtance occurred to undermine and deſtroy it.——He ventured one evening

evening to go halves with a gentleman, who appeared ſo ſucceſsful, that he concluded he underſtood all the nicer points of the game—when unfortunately the tide turned againſt him, he loſt very deep, and it was diſcovered that though Sir R—— was perfectly qualified to have ſhared his proſperity, he was incapable of being his friend in adverſity. He was therefore handled a little roughly, and baniſhed the company. This ſtroke was no leſs heavy than unexpected, and he began to find that the merits of his character could not be much longer concealed, unleſs by a judicious retreat; he therefore returned home, and voluntarily buried himſelf alive, emerging only in the evening as occaſion and circumſtances might demand. But this was not the life our hero could long conform to, and he tortured his invention day and night for a means of deliverance. Without the ſingle friend to ſoften his mortifications, or heighten his ſatisfactions, with a moſt extenſive knowledge of the world, and a moſt uncommon propenſity to chattering, which he ſtiled a ſocial propenſity, he was compelled to paſs his hours in ſilence, ſolitude, or ſelf-contemplation, except indeed when he

now

now and then allured a paſſenger to take ſhelter from a ſhower, or repoſe themſelves from fatigue for a ſhort time, within his habitation—nor did ſuch caſual viſitants fail to form the moſt extraordinary conjectures concerning him. Having ſpent ſome months in this ſingular manner, he began to think of quitting the kingdom, and truſt to the natural conſequence of travelling for forming uſeful connexions. Still that ſame thing called money, proved an impediment, until a little adventure enabled him to obviate it.

Returning home one evening through the Park, he obſerved a lady, followed by a fellow in a handſome livery, who nevertheleſs appeared as if ſhe would not be violently offended if he was to attempt introducing himſelf to her acquaintance. The *thought* was with him every thing, for he never heſitated a moment in the execution—ſo, having recourſe to that commonplace method of accoſting her with great reſpect by the firſt name that occurred to him, in the little explanation of, Sir, you are miſtaken, and Madam, I ask ten thouſand pardons, he had the confidence to ſtart a converſation upon the weather

weather, which ſhe could not reſiſt entering into, in ſo much, that they were upon the moſt ſociable footing before they reached the top of the Mall. He took the other turn for the pleaſure of her company, waited upon her to the palace gate, when entreating her addreſs, (he had always an inſtinctive reverence for the very ſound) and being indulged to his wiſh, he hurried home to form his plan of operations. This lady happened to be no other, than the favourite miſtreſs of a great man, whom he knew could *bleed freely*; and as his finances were at that time a little out of repair, he conſidered the rencounter as a moſt fortunate one, and reſolved to make the moſt of it. Accordingly he had many tender interviews with the lady, in one of which ſhe made a propoſal to him, that, though apparently attended with danger, he, nevertheleſs, thought proper to comply with. In a word, ſhe was heartily tired of her generous keeper, and found herſelf diſpoſed to make a tour to France. For which purpoſe, ſhe accommodated herſelf very plentifully with caſh, and on a night, and at an hour appointed, bid adieu to

her Lord, and put herſelf under the convoy of the gallant Sir R——.

It is true, the lady's power was in the wane before ſhe determined upon this expedition, the faithleſs Corydon having met with a Sylvia he conceived more fair; and as this was the caſe, it was no more than a piece of juſtice ſhe owed herſelf, to leave him in as prepared a way as poſſible, for her own advantage. Sir R—— received her with the utmoſt delight, and they ſoon embarked for Calias, with very favourable proſpects. But it occurred to the Bar—t during their paſſage, that travelling with this lady, whoſe appearance and behaviour was ſomewhat *ſpirited*, would in no degree promote his favourite ſchemes, and that the woman who had ſo baſely abandoned a man, to whom ſhe owed the greateſt obligations, could never have the audacity to complain, if abandoned by him. She had, in the generous confidence of her heart, committed ſome things of value to his care. To *borrow* them, could not be either ungenteel, or culpable. He therefore, a few hours after their arrival at Calais, took a French leave

of

of his accompliſhed companion, and purſued another route.

Having been abſent from England, according to his calculatiion, a ſufficient time, he made his appearance in Yorkſhire in a new character. The honour of knighthood had been conferred upon him by our worthy brother and ally, the king of Pruſſia, and upon the ſtrength of this conſequence—his ſucceſſes were amaſingly rapid. On his arrival in London, he applied to a broker for a houſe and furniture in the polite ſtyle. The broker was well pleaſed—every thing was completed according to his directions, when, lo! he received an intimation, that Sir Knight was contracting with a brother of his profeſſion, for the ſale of what he could not properly have been ſaid to have purchaſed, as he had never produced the ſingle ſhilling in confirmation of his agreement. This circumſtance, getting air, occaſioned many diſadvantageous recollections, in ſo much, that having played upon his title to the utmoſt—as for example, beſpeaking large parcels of various commodities, and ordering them to Sir R—— P——'s, where they

they were never more heard of, he was ſeized with an inclination to viſit Ireland.

Baronet is a mighty pretty travelling title, commanding reſpect, and communicating confidence. In the courſe of his journey, on the ſtrength of that elegant recommendation, he ſo won upon the good opinion of a Welch gentleman, of family and fortune, that he invited him to ſpend ſome time with him, before his embarkation. Sir R—— P—— was never out of his road—Wales or Ireland, it was the ſame thing to him, provided he could amuſe himſelf, and profitably deceive thoſe with whom he was connected. During this receſs from *public* avocations it was that he ſtudied the nature and turn of the inhabitants of that principality, though he little imagined, of how much utility ſuch ſtudies would prove to his country or himſelf at ſome future period. Nay, he even had it in contemplation, to have offered himſelf as member for one of the bordering counties. Here he lived, for no inconſiderable period, in eaſe, affluence, and reputation. The ſame fatality, nevertheleſs, purſuing him, he was at length found

found guilty of ſeveral breaches of honour and hoſpitality, and his patron provoked to inſinuate that his abſence would be deemed no misfortune to his family. He braved out the matter with a dexterity peculiar to himſelf, and pretended to keep up a ſhew of importance, even in the moment of his departure, never more to return.

When arrived in Dublin, he determined to play a more cautious card. A frequenter of the coffee-houſe, his plauſibility ſoon procured him many friends, and he eat and drank from houſe to houſe with the utmoſt condeſcenſion. No Engliſh perſon of figure could be mentioned, but Sir R—— inſtantly delineated him—had either ſome humourous or ſcandalous anecdote to produce, ſo that the aſtoniſhment of his company was ſure to be kept alive, if their mirth was in the ſmalleſt degree diminiſhed.

Weary, according to his own declaration, of wandering, he beſpoke a habitation ſuitable to his character, and gave entertainment for entertainment with his friends. Nor was this merely a

generous,

generous, it was a political mode of proceeding. For who could imagine, that the man who was able to ſupport ſuch an appearance, could be other than a man of fortune.

Amongſt his numerous acquaintance, was a young lady, heireſs to 2000l. pounds a year, and entirely at her own diſpoſal, but then ſhe was a catholic. Sir R—— was inconceivably divided between his love of religion, and his love of the lady. He would frequently draw her into gentle debates upon their oppoſite tenets, and always contrived to leave her with the idea of his being puzzled and diſtreſſed. A convert of ſuch importance, not only with reſpect to his rank, but acknowledged abilities, drew the attention of the firſt catholic families upon him. He was *perſecuted* with unremitting teſtimonies of their reſpect and kindneſs, and he did many of them the honour, on the detention of the mails by unfavourable winds, to borrow large ſums of money, until he could obtain remittance.

In this glorious ſtate of deception did he reign for many months, when having conſented to make a public renunciation of his faith, and having been aſſured of the lady's hand immediately upon that renunciation, a gentleman, who was no ſtranger to his ingenuity, happening to ſee him in the College walks, recognized and proclaimed his merits. His trades people were outrageous, his *lovely* miſtreſs forſook him, and he very ſpeedily conveyed himſelf out of the reach of the former, unable as he was to live without the latter—he was reported to have *died* a martyr to his paſſion.

But as this is an age for miracles, it cannot but be one of the number, that this moſt ſpirited and accompliſhed Bar—t experienced an early reſurrection. He once more ventured to London, renewed his elegant ſhifts for a livelihood, and was ſo far ſucceſsful, as to keep above water, where a thouſand other r—— would have ſunk. Meeting, however, with ſome of the moſt importunate of his trades people, he was ſo hard preſſed, as to be compelled once more to hide his head, but by luckily getting a lodging within the verge of the court, he paſſed his time

time very comfortably, until their purſuit of him was pretty well over. Whatever feeling this man might have been born with, it is plain by his not hanging himſelf, that his breaſt was become wholly callous; for, to drag on a deſpiſed and a ſelf-condemned exiſtence, muſt certainly be the ſevereſt lot of humanity.

It would be endleſs to attempt recounting half the artifices he was reduced to practiſe in this kind of obſcured ſituation. Schemes upon ſchemes ſuggeſted themſelves, but for want of time, place, or money, could never be carried into execution. He lamented the frowardneſs of his fortune, in a language not altogether calculated for the ear of refinement, but he would have rendered thoſe lamentations an heroic poem, if his abilities had been equal to the taſk.

And here I cannot help recollecting an obſervation of Mr. Addiſon's, with reſpect to how much more labour is neceſſary to preſerve a falſe character, than ſupport the greateſt difficulties or diſappointments of a true one. If we would, ſays he, but *be* what we would *ſeem*, our purpoſe

poſe would moſt certainly be accompliſhed; but admitting that we even eſcape the *detection* of what we only aſſume, the conſciouſneſs of our own inſincerity, and the apprehenſion of every penetrating eye that ſurveys us reading the proper lines of our heart, muſt be a bitter alloy to the beſt gratifications deceit can purchaſe.

This reflection did not, however, obtrude itſelf upon our Bar—t, and as day ſucceeded to day, without enlargement or relief, he was again balancing with himſelf, whether it would not be moſt prudent once more to leave England—deſperate diſeaſes ſuggeſt deſperate remedies. Upon this very point of ſinking into oblivion, Miſs W—ſon, the rope-dancer at Sadler's Wells, moſt unfortunately for herſelf, and fortunately for him, became the object of his attention. Miſs W—ſon was then what might be called in high life for a lady of her profeſſion---a houſe elegantly furniſhed, a carriage at her command, a handſome income, and every caſual extravagance anſwered by a very generous gentleman with whom ſhe was then in ſtrict amity. Sir R—— no ſooner caſt his bane-

ful glance upon all theſe goodly endowments, but he marked them for his own—he ſo cloſely purſued, and ſo ſucceſsfully flattered, that he was admitted to a participation of the fruits of her induſtry, and the honeſt dupe, for ſome time, paid for all. At length, however, convinced of the Bar—t's meanneſs, and the lady's perfidy, he very ſpiritedly caſt her off, though not till ſhe was pretty well fleeced herſelf, and had taken him in, for her favourite, to a very conſiderable amount. But though deprived of affluence, ſhe was not left deſtitute of a ſubſiſtence, if ſhe had had the reſolution to refuſe the importunities of her lover. She could not *refuſe*, and the conſequence ſoon was, that ſhe was reduced to her laſt ſhilling, and rendered wholly dependant on a v—— for her ſupport. She is, nevertheleſs, to this hour ſupported by him—on ſomewhat rather ſingular conditions indeed—for it is moſt undeniable, that in caſes of exigence, or that Sir Knight has wiſhed to make a more than ordinary appearance, ſhe has been driven out to ſolicit other lovers, and bring home all her earnings to this ſtern, yet moſt beloved maſter. Such is the ſtate in which

ſhe

ſhe lives with him, even at this very hour of his dignity and importance: nor would he have made a moment's heſitation, on his returning from *taw*, or *ſhuttle-cock*, at the ———, to have derived the neceſſary means of accommodation, or relief from her p——. It is hinted, that the origin of his acquaintance with the D— of G—— was by this lady's means, who having recommended herſelf to Miſs P——s, by playing upon glaſſes, and ſome other accompliſhments of which ſhe is miſtreſs, an intimacy was eſtabliſhed between them, which very naturally led on to an intimacy between their Lords; and that in the courſe of many ſocial viſits, the Bar—t diſcovered ſuch happy talents for public tranſactions, and ſo convenient a conſcience, that he was enliſted in the ſervice of a ———: nor was the F—— addreſs the firſt important commiſſion he had the honour of executing. It is now generally believed, that from his love of juſtice, and his *conſtitutional* generoſity, that as Miſs W—ſon was the actual means by which he obtained his conſequence, that he will reward her with nothing leſs than a transfer of his perſon for life. But as I would be cautious of advancing

advancing one ſtep beyond the ſtricteſt letter of truth, I give this to my readers for a ſurmiſe, not an actual determination.

When we conſider the obligations he owes her, and that, notwithſtanding ſhe has ſuffered hunger, thirſt, poverty, and inſult with him, nothing could incite her to forſake him, it muſt be allowed, that as lady P——t ſhe ought to enjoy her ſhare of the —— favour, and have ſome poſt of honour and truſt aſſigned her. For if the F— addreſs had never been preſented, how could we poſſibly have known that judicious people's ſenſe of addreſſes in general, or divined, that the now ——— ——— were the only ——— that deſerved countenance and approbation.

This, however, is not the page for me to dwell upon the merits of his conduct, where the national affairs are concerned, as there are one or two more remarkable paſſages of his life ſtill unrelated.

An

An advertiſement appeared in the papers, that a gratuity was ready for any gentleman or lady, who had ſufficient intereſt to procure a ſmall place at court. Sir R—— undertook it inſtantly, the money was depoſited in the hands of a third perſon. The buſineſs was done, the reward claimed, but neither the place nor the money have ſince been heard of. Yet it would be hard to blame him for perhaps what was his misfortune rather than his fault, for there have been innumerable inſtances of gentlemen being deceived by their patrons, and in ſuch caſe they ought not to be blamed for deceiving—and as Sir R—— had ſo many purpoſes to anſwer, even with the ſmalleſt ſum, it could never be reaſonable to put him to inconvenience for the faults of another. He dined at a tavern with a party of diſtinction—debates ran high reſpecting ſome public concerns. A nobleman, remarkable for the haſtineſs of his diſpoſition, and his ſucceeding contrition, was ſingled out by our Bar—t, for an opponent: he was provoking, abſurd, and inſolent; the nobleman would have coolly ſtated the fact to him, but he diſdained conviction, and in the end, receiv-

ed

ed a ſevere drubbing, the healing *draught* of which was no other than a draught upon that nobleman's banker, for a brace of hundreds.

At a fire in the ——, when all the immediate ſufferers were in the greateſt diſtreſs and conſternation, the ſpecious Sir R—— was conſidered as a kind of guardian angel. Papers, money, jewels, &c. were committed to his care: the papers were returned, but the effects were never viſible from that day to this. With theſe and other equally advantageous caſualties has he been brought on from bad to worſe, until the very —— has been opened to him; nor was this all, he contrived to cover his proceedings ſo artfully, that it was believed by the injured family, that in his confuſion he had loſt or miſlaid what he had converted to his own uſe, and ſome much leſs r—— was marked down for the j——.

A young lady, to whom he really had been ſerviceable, on that occaſion felt and profeſſed her higheſt gratitude. She had been married only a few months, and her huſband was then gone a voyage to the

the Eaſt Indies. Sir R—— what he *called* admired her, and finding that ſhe did not ſcruple to go the utmoſt lengths of propriety to oblige him, conceived the notable idea, that ſhe might eaſily be led a little farther. With this view his viſits were frequent, and his dreſs elegant. She believed him a man of honour, and a gentleman, conſequently received him in the houſe of her father, without the ſmalleſt apprehenſion of abſurdity or inſult—until he candidly opened his ſentiments to her, and entreated her favourable conſideration. Sir, ſaid the lady, as I ſhall always acknowledge myſelf indebted to you, I can only regret, that you have choſe to forfeit my eſteem—you muſt have little acquaintance with the nature of gratitude, to ſuppoſe that it can be evinced by criminal actions. Gratitude, Sir, is not a paſſion, but a ſentiment of the ſoul, and take it for a rule, that the woman, who is truly ſuſceptible of it, knows nothing of unworthy attachment. We may give vicious inclinations what name we pleaſe, but the friendſhip that can degenerate into vice, the affection that can lead its object to deſtruction, or the gratitude that can terminate in baſeneſs, were origi-

originally what time may ſhew them, and only poorly concealed by aſſumed propriety.

This ſpeech was delivered with ſuch peculiar emphaſis, that notwithſtanding it was unfelt by every thing but our hero's pride, it determined him to give over his chace of ſo haughty and imperious a creature, as he moſt ignorantly deemed her. The lady's huſband has ſince returned from abroad in great affluence—and having learned the ſtory of the affront his wife ſuſtained from a man, who had actually been the means of ſaving her life—and, moreover, being ſatisfied on inquiry, that he was a man that was not *above* ſelling his ſervices, he took an opportunity of returning the double obligation. Preſenting him, therefore, with a bank note with one hand, he conducted him round a ſpacious coffee-room by the noſe, with the other, to the great entertainment of the company, who unanimouſly declared, he had a large portion of diſcretion, however limited his ſenſibility. For ſhaking his ears, he pocketted the note, and haſtily retired from the ſcene of action, and now, for ever, took leave of the city—from the

the affectation, of heartily deſpiſing its inhabitants, but though he had prudently avoided diſturbing the people at the coffee houſe, by reſiſtance or reſentment, yet the affair was far from ſitting eaſy upon him, and ſpleen and diſhumour rendered Miſs W—ſon's life, for ſome time, a very unpleaſant one.

But as he had a moſt ſingular regard for his features, he thought proper to clear up, leſt they ſhould contract an unbecoming gloom; and plays were the amuſements that filled up this ſpace of his exiſtence.

How often did he lament, that the niggard hand of Nature had withheld the neceſſary qualifications for his ſtruting in that walk, convinced as he was, of the admiration his perſon muſt have engaged. Thus, however bountiful that indulgent goddeſs, if not equal to our capricious deſires, we feel the one thing *wanting* beyond all the bleſſings we may poſſeſs. Our hero was no philoſopher, conſequently, had no idea of entering very critically into mental diſtinctions. Yet, however, the practical part might

be unknown to him, he is maſter of the theory, and can harangue whole hours upon the fitneſs and unfitneſs of things, the natural and the moral laws of the creation, the political artifices of governments, and the ſpirited rein by which alone the commonality can be kept within bounds. Variable in his conduct, he is collected in his judgment, and capable of ſhining upon moſt ſubjects.

The laſt noble ſtroke that has tranſpired, reſpecting this great perſonage, is as follows. Maſter of an uncommon elegant taſte, a beautiful little ſpot in the neighbourhood of R——, became the object of his admiration and wiſhes—but how to pave the way to poſſeſſion, appeared beyond the utmoſt ſtretch of his invention. The old proverb, nevertheleſs, ſaved him from being foiled. He formed means to acquaint the fair inhabitant, now in the bloom of eighty, with a deſign he had diſcovered, of ſetting fire to the premiſes, and offered his aſſiſtance and protection with the moſt engaging parade.

In

In an hour of difficulty or diſtreſs, how naturally the mind verges to the protecting point, I need not deſcribe. The lady was all gratitude, the Bar—t all proweſs—until he ſo far won upon her approbation, confidence, and credulity, that by his advice, ſhe reſolved to find a purchaſer for her little palace; nay more, entruſted him with the diſpoſal of it. This was the very thing he wanted, all the materials, even to the lead on the top of the houſe, was ſold by him. All which are unaccounted for to this good day. The lady had, however, for a long time the pleaſure of his company, converſation, and politeſt attention; but a few weeks after his ſucceſs, he became an arrant apoſtate. Thus have we traced this illuſtrious hero, through a variety of meanders, and ſtill found him the ſame great man, alike in every thing.

But we muſt henceforth admire at humble diſtance—the repreſentative of a whole principality, the favourite of the —— and the ——, who ſhall dare to attack him.

But it cannot be ſuppoſed, that Sir R—— could have ſo abundantly experienced the roughs and ſmooths of life, without having alſo acquired a conſiderable ſhare of experience in the humours and ways of men; and it muſt alſo be confeſſed to his honour, that if he could but in a ſmall degree moderate his volubility, and deal ſomething leſs in the hyperbole, that he would not be an ineligible companion.

On his circuit for the benefit of the nation, Miſs W—ſon was permitted to accompany him, and it is affirmed, that her *addreſs* obtained her as many friends amongſt the mountaineers, as their *addreſs* has done them at court. This far I will, nevertheleſs, ſay for the people of Wales, that they are well affected to the preſent eſtabliſhment, and that though miſled, are perfectly well meaning.

Our Knight, notwithſtanding he buoyed himſelf up with extraordinary expectations, his reception exceeded all his imagination could ach. But having a faithful bluſhleſs aſpect, and

and expreſſions at command, he went through all the parade of —— indulgence with a good grace, and it is believed, would make no bad figure even at the c—— table.

What a bleſſed condition has England at laſt attained, when ſuch pillars as theſe are deemed worthy to ſupport her. All opinion is now converted into farce, oppoſition into childiſh contention, and the ear of ——, acceſſible to the known deceiver. Tell it not in Gath, publiſh it not in the gates of Aſkelon. And ſhall ſuch a —— experience theſe groſs, theſe unmerited impoſitions. Shall the hand that ought to conduct him to glory, only contribute to augment the r—— of his character, and ſhall the P———, who ſo recently reigned in the hearts of his people, thus cruelly be ſet up to —— by a wretched m———. Forbid it honour, and forbid it heaven. Behold, moſt injured m———, the honeſt and the loyal, entreating you to believe, let no more itinerant Baronets approach your perſon, let no more falſe tales ſteal upon your credulity, thoſe

who

who have once ſacrificed you to private ends, will unrelentingly repeat the crime, and ſmile amidſt the general deſtruction.

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